

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06522 211521Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 /073 W
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R 211420Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4120
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
CINCLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6522

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO
SUBJ: NATO INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION

REF: STATE 084815

1. DCM AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR HAVE MADE REPRESENTATION, DRAWING ON REFTTEL, TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MONDELLO, MOD VICE CHIEF OF STAFF MAININI, CHIEF NATO OFFICE MOD PISANO AND CHIEF NATO OFFICE MFA SALLEO. THE GENERAL REACTION WAS NOT UNPREDICTABLE. THE GOI IS COGNIZANT OF ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS WE MENTIONED. THE GOI SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF AUGMENTATION WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS (PROBABLY AT LEVEL PROPOSED BY DANES) BUT MUST DECIDE WHETHER IT CAN DIVERT FUNDS FROM CURRENT DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS OR WHETHER IT MUST SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM PARLIAMENT.

2. THE ITALIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IS NATURALLY
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PAGE 02 ROME 06522 211521Z

OPPOSED TO ANY DIVERSION OF MONEY FROM CURRENTLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS. ADMIRAL MAININI (REFLECTING ALSO DEFMIN LATTANZIO'S POSITION) WAS CATEGORIC, THERE IS NO FAT IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET. GENERAL PISANO SAID THERE WAS GRAVE DOUBT ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF ASKING FOR MORE MONEY FROM THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT. IN HIS VIEW THE MOD'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PARLIAMENT IN THE LONG STRUGGLE TO GET APPROVAL FROM THE

"PROMOTIONAL LAWS" DID NOT AUGUR WELL FOR A FURTHER APPROPRIATION. NONETHELESS, OUR INTERLOCUTORS INFORMED US THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER INTERMINISTERIAL DISCUSSION IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A WAY TO MAKE AN ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION.

3. ITALIAN NATO REP CATALANO HAS, ACCORDING TO ALL OUR INTERLOCUTORS, TAKEN A FIRM, UNSHAKEABLE POSITION IN FAVOR OF FULL ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE AUGMENTATION PROGRAM.

4. AMBASSADOR MONDELLO, WHO WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE LONDON SUMMIT, PROMISED HE WOULD BEFORE HE LEFT DISCUSS THE PROBLEM FURTHER WITH FONMIN FORLANI, ADVISE US ON WHAT FURTHER WE CAN DO TO PROMOTE OUR POSITION, AND SUGGEST, IF APPROPRIATE WHEN WE MIGHT MOST EFFECTIVELY INSERT OUR REPRESENTATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Subject: NATO INFRASTRUCTURE AUGMENTATION
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